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4 September 1975

Major General G. J. Keegan, Jr.
Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Air Force
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear George:

Many thanks for furnishing me a copy
of the sixth volume in your "Soviet Military
Thought" series. I am happy to add it to those
volumes which preceeded it.

With every good wish,

Faithfully,

Vernon A. Walters
Lieutenant General, USA

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Lt General Vernon A Walters
Deputy Director, CIA
Washington DC 20505

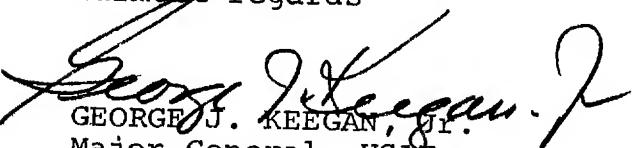
Dear General Walters

Attached is a copy of Concept, Algorithm, Decision, the sixth volume in our "Soviet Military Thought" series. This volume provides valuable insight into Soviet perceptions of the decision making process, and the possibilities and problems associated with employing automated means to control military operations.

The book was co-authored by General-Colonel V. Druzhinin, Doctor of Military Science, former Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet National Air Defense Forces, and a Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces since at least 1970, and Colonel-Engineer D. Kontorov, Doctor of Technical Science. Originally published in 1972 by the Military Publishing House of the Soviet Ministry of Defense, the book is listed as recommended reading in the "Soldier's Bookshelf" section of the 1974 Calendar of a Soldier and is directed at commanders and staff officers. It is also part of the "Officer's Library" series.

This volume is the result of our most recent efforts to make significant Soviet military writings available in the public domain. I believe this book contributes substantially to our awareness of current Soviet military doctrine, and I trust that you will find it to be a worthy successor to those volumes which preceded it.

Warmest regards


GEORGE J. KEEGAN, JR.
Major General, USAF
ACS/Intelligence



CONCEPT, ALGORITHM, DECISION

This volume, the sixth in the "Soviet Military Thought" series to be translated and published under the auspices of the United States Air Force, was originally published in 1972 by the Military Publishing House of the Soviet Ministry of Defense. The book was written by two authors: General-Colonel V. Druzhinin, Doctor of Military Science, former Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the National Air Defense Forces and a Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces since at least 1970; and Colonel-Engineer D. Kontorov, Doctor of Technical Science.

The purpose of this book is to examine and verify theoretical and technical aspects of the decision-making process, as well as to assess the prospects for the use of electronic computers in troop command and control. The authors look at problems concerning automated control procedures as a whole and view technological problems in preparing command decisions from their military, technological, sociological, ethical and psychological aspects.

This book is divided into three parts: "Method," "Means," and "Technology." The "Method" section analyzes the process of preparing and making command decisions. Specifically, it examines: conceptual models of thinking; informational, operational and organizational decisions in a military context; alternative approaches to making these decisions; group dynamics of the decision-making process; and limitation of unaided intellect.

"Means" deals with modern research methods, the major role of speech in the decision-making process and different mathematical methods for solving problems in military science. This section looks at the formulation of hypotheses and their evaluation, factoring, optimization and the modeling solution method.

The third section, "Technology," examines computing systems, computer components, computer mathematics, interaction between man and computer, and data retrieval systems. The last chapter is devoted to a discussion of an automated complex.

In conclusion, the authors stress the increasing application of the scientific method in the solution of problems encountered in the sphere of military affairs. In order to make a timely and effective decision and have it implemented immediately, the commander must possess extensive knowledge in military art and science and be skillful in the use of automated equipment.